

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07

RSC-01 CIEP-03 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

LAB-06 SIL-01 IGA-02 L-03 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

FEA-02 DRC-01 /205 W

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R 151150Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5033

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

INFO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 0944

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EIND, ENGR, EGEN, CT

SUBJECT: GOCAR PETROLEUM PROBLEMS: FIRST FALLOUT FROM NATION-
ALIZATIONS.

REF BANGUI 0525

1. VARIOUS EMBASSY SOURCES REPORT FIRST SHIPMENT ALGERIAN
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS UNDER CAR/ALGERIAN DEAL (REFTEL) WHICH
ARRIVED POINTE NOIRE, CONGO MID-JUNE DESTINED BANGUI HAS
BEEN EMBARGOED THERE BY CONGOLESE AUTHORITIES PENDING CASH
PAYMENT OF LONG OVERDUE TRANSPORT DEBTS BY GOCAR. REPORTEDLY,
TOTAL DEBT MAY RANGE AS HIGH AS FIVE TO SEVEN BILLION CFA,
BUT LIFTING EMBARGO SAID TO DEPEND ON PAYMENT OF 86 MILLION CFA
IN ADVANCE FOR PETROLEUM TRANSIT POINTE NOIRE - BRAZZAVILLE.
IN EVENT TRANSPORT CHARGES TO BRAZZAVILLE ARE PAID CONGO IS
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EXPECTED TO PRESENT ADDITIONAL BILL FOR 250 MILLION CFA FOR

PORT FEES AND SHIPYARD WORK ON CAR RIVER FLEET PRIOR TO RELEASE OF PETROL. BULK OF DEBT IS NON-PETROLEUM RELATED AS OIL COMPANIES KEPT THEIR ACCOUNTS CURRENT PRIOR TO CAR NATIONALIZATION IN MAY. HOWEVER, CONGO AWARE THAT GOCAR PETROLEUM COMPANY CENTRAHYDRO HAS NO RESOURCES TO PAY TRANSPORT CHARGES.

2. WHILE SUPPLY OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IN BANGUI AND CAR INTERIOR NOT YET AFFECTED AT RETAIL LEVEL EMBARGO IS HAVING SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR SOUTHERN CHAD WHOSE NORMAL SUPPLY ROUTE IS VIA BANGUI. ACCORDING LOCAL PETROLEUM INDUSTRY SOURCES AND CHADIAN AMBASSADOR NO PETROLEUM PRODUCTS HAVE BEEN EXPORTED TO CHAD SINCE NATIONALIZATIONS MID-MAY.

3. EMBARGO HAS RESULTED IN TWO MINISTERIAL DELEGATIONS TO GOCAR FOR DISCUSSIONS WITHIN LAST TWO WEEKS AND CAR DELEGATION TO CONGO. ALGERIAN DELEGATION LED BY BACHIR OULD ROUNIS, CHIEF OF ECONOMIC BUREAU MIN OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WAS IN BANGUI JULY 27 TO AUGUST 2. ACCORDING TO TERMS OF SALE ALGERIA WILL BE PAID 90 DAYS AFTER DELIVER OF REFINED PRODUCTS TO BANGUI. THEREFORE, IN ALGERIAN INTEREST TO HAVE EMBARGO REMOVED. BOKASSA REPORTEDLY ASKED VISITING DELEGATION FOR IMMEDIATE LOAN OF \$2 MILLION TO PAY HIS CONGO DEBTS. GOCAR ALSO PRESSURING ALGERIA TO USE INFLUENCE WITH BRAZZAVILLE IN ORDER TO RELEASE SUPPLIES. ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR MAIDOU REMAINS BANGUI FOR CONSULTATIONS. ABDOULAYE LAMANA, CHADIAN MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF ECONOMY, PLAN, COMMERCE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ARRIVED BANGUI JULY 30 FOR BRIEF VISIT DURING WHICH HE ALSO DISCUSSED FUEL SUPPLY AND OTHER TRANSPORT PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN CHAD, AND ASKED FOR MEETING WITH GOCAR AND REPRESENTATIVES OF CONGO DURING AUGUST.

4. GOCAR MINISTERS GON, DEFENSE, AND OTINE, TRANSPORT AND CIVIL AVIATION SPENT FOUR DAYS LAST WEEK POINTE NOIRE AND BRAZZAVILLE CONSULTING ON PROBLEM. RESULT OF VISIT WILL BE MEETING BEFORE END OF AUGUST IN BANGUI. GOCAR EXPECTS TO MEET FIRST WITH CONGO AND THEN SEPARATELY WITH CHAD AFTER CONGO MEETING.

5. EXBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS OR INFO ALGIERS, N'DJAMENA OR KINSHASA MAY DEVELOP REGARDING OIL SUPPLY PROBLEM.

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